

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 764

By Shepard

A RESOLUTION to recognize the many contributions of George E. Jackson of Dickson on the occasion of the observance of the bicentennial celebration of the founding of Dickson County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are particularly pleased to celebrate milestones in the histories of the counties of this state and to specially recognize the significant contributions of leading citizens of such counties and their communities to their growth and development; and

WHEREAS, one such progressive community is Dickson County, which has been celebrating its bicentennial, and one such outstanding citizen is the late George E. Jackson, a prominent civic activist and community leader who proudly served as the official County Historian of Dickson County; and

WHEREAS, George E. Jackson, son of Norman and Belva Kneisley Jackson, was born in Safe Harbor, Conestoga Township, Lancaster, Pennsylvania in March of 1916 and grew up in Claymont, Delaware where his father served as the stationmaster for the Pennsylvania Railroad; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson attended the University of Delaware and received a degree in Civil Engineering in 1939 and was soon employed by the Sun Oil Company of Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, answering the call of his country, George Jackson entered the United States Army in April of 1942 and as destiny would have it met his future wife, Annis Foster, at a USO dance in Clarksville while he was training at nearby Fort Campbell; and

WHEREAS, a native of the Woods Valley Community, Annis Foster was raised on a farm on Little Bartons Creek, and at the time of her first meeting with her future husband she had been working at the B.F. Goodrich factory, contributing to the war effort. The army soon

sent George Jackson to Austin, Texas and the young couple was married there in August of 1944; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary soldier, Mr. Jackson saw action in the European Theatre of World War II, landing at Normandy Beach scant weeks after the initial invasion and served at numerous posts in Holland, Belgium and Germany; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the military in December of 1945 he returned to the Sun Oil Company where he worked until his retirement in November of 1977 as a Director of the engineering department; and

WHEREAS, returning to Tennessee, Annis and George Jackson settled in Dickson in July of 1978 where "Mr. George and Mrs. Annis" quickly became involved in the community as active members of Walnut Street Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, George Jackson had always shown a great love for history and was a member of the Wilmington (Delaware) Civil War Roundtable, the Delaware Historical Society and the Pennsylvania Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, through extensive research fueled by his passion for knowledge, Mr. George soon became the recognized authority on the history of Dickson County and the surrounding communities, writing several articles for publication and a book, "Cumberland Furnace, A Frontier Industrial Village: A Story of the First Ironworks on the Western Highland Rim"; and

WHEREAS, his love for the history of the Cumberland Furnace community contributed to the formation of the Cumberland Furnace Historic Village Association in 1989 and the resultant placement of the village on the National Historic Register. The profits he realized from his book on Cumberland Furnace were evenly donated to the Cumberland Furnace Historic Village Association and the Dickson County Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George was an active member of the Dickson County Historical Society and served for many years as Treasurer, while inspiring a generation of local historians to explore the rich heritage of Dickson County; and

WHEREAS, George Jackson loved to share his knowledge of Dickson County and was often called on to lecture at numerous engagements involving local citizens, visiting groups, and

students. In recognition of his expertise and devotion to Dickson County, in 1993 the Dickson County Commission appointed him to the office of Dickson County Historian; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Mr. George was appointed to the Dickson County Record Preservation Commission and became the driving force in the creation of the Dickson County Archives. Without his presence, county officials believe the Archives would not exist; and

WHEREAS, George Jackson was also instrumental in the formation and planning of the Dickson County Bicentennial celebration and served on the Dickson County Bicentennial Commission until his death; and

WHEREAS, survived by his devoted wife, Mrs. Annis Foster Jackson, George E. Jackson was the proud parent of son George E. "Stoney" Jackson and devoted grandfather to Erik George Jackson and Deana Michelle Croussore and three wonderful great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, George E. Jackson's many outstanding contributions to the growth and prosperity of his community are worthy of our deep appreciation and have clearly helped make Dickson County what it is today; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with the citizens of Dickson County in celebrating their bicentennial and in specially honoring the many laudable contributions of the late George E. Jackson to the citizens of Dickson County and to the admirable quality of life enjoyed by its citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to family members of George E. Jackson with this final clause omitted from such copy.